



From the Director of Victim Services

Welcome to a new decade! I hope that your new year is off to a great start. The Victim Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Correction is committed to providing direct services to victims of crime. The Department is mandated by law and policy to keep registered victims, survivors, family members and interested parties informed of an offender's status, release dates, escapes and movements with a lower security designation.

Offenders receive victim impact classes that are designed and structured to increase their awareness and understanding of the impact crime has on victims. We receive copious phone calls from victims, family members, law enforcement, community, etc. Taking telephone calls from victims is our number one priority because it's the starting point to navigating them through the corrections process. Information is key! The most important function of receiving any and all calls is to listen attentively.

Victim Coordinators, let's keep up the great work on behalf of every victim/survivor, family member, significant other, public official, etc. and continue to be ready to serve by listening!

Tamika Dobbins

February 2020

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

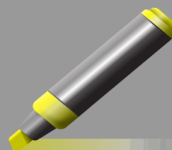
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

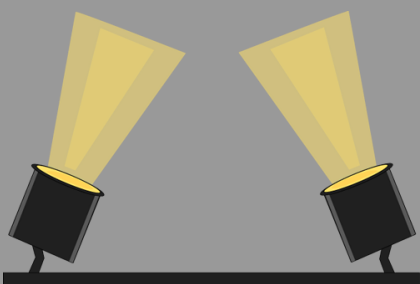
Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

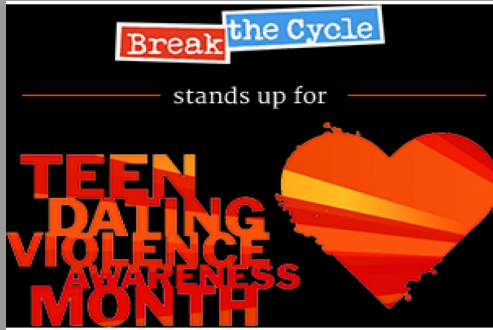
Victims Services Highlights.....



Staci Scruggs, is the Program Coordinator serving as the primary administrative official for the Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program. In this role Ms. Scruggs leads the coordination and development of training and outreach for Safe at Home application assistants with law enforcement, community advocates, and partnering agencies across the state as well as managing all program administration for Safe at Home participants. Ms. Scruggs is a Nashville native with a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Belmont University and a Master of Arts in Conflict Management from Lipscomb University. Ms. Scruggs is a Rule 31 dual listed Civil/Family mediator with the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.



February is National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Month



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, or TDVAM for short. Every February across the United States, teens and those who support them join together for a national effort to raise awareness to teen dating violence. Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults. And nearly half (43%) of college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors. By joining every February, we can spread awareness and stop dating abuse before it starts!

The 2020 TDVAM campaign theme is “1Thing”, this campaign is focused on meeting teens where they are at. By learning one thing about teen dating violence and sharing that with a friend, every teen can make a difference. We’re starting at square one together to build healthy relationships from the ground up. By just learning or doing one thing, you can start the conversation about healthy relationships in your friend circles, schools, and communities. Everyone has a part in ending dating violence, even if that one thing seems small in the moment. Every step towards ending dating violence is an important one!

What does dating abuse look like?

Teens and young adults experience the same type of abuse as adults, including:

Physical Abuse: Any intentional use of physical force with intent to cause fear or injury, like hitting, shoving, biting, strangling, kicking or using a weapon.

Verbal or Emotional Abuse: Non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, constant monitoring, humiliation, intimidation, isolation or stalking.

Sexual Abuse: Any action that impacts a person’s ability to control their sexual activity or the circumstances in which sexual activity occurs, including rape, coercion or restricting access to birth control.

Digital Abuse: Use of technologies and/or social media networking to intimidate, harass or threaten a current or ex-dating partner such as demanding passwords, checking cell phones, cyberbullying, non-consensual sexting, or excessive or threatening texts or stalking on social media.

Need Help?

If you or a loved one is in an abusive relationship, please get help. Call 866-331-9474.

Heart Health Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, causing about 1 in 4 deaths.¹ The term “heart disease” refers to several types of heart conditions. In the United States, the most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease (CAD), which can lead to heart attack. You can greatly reduce your risk for heart disease through lifestyle changes and, in some cases, medicine.

Sometimes heart disease may be “silent” and not diagnosed until a person experiences signs or symptoms of a heart attack, heart failure, or an arrhythmia. When these events happen, symptoms may include:

Heart attack: Chest pain or discomfort, upper back or neck pain, indigestion, heartburn, nausea or vomiting, extreme fatigue, upper body discomfort, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

Arrhythmia: Fluttering feelings in the chest (palpitations).

Heart failure: Shortness of breath, fatigue, or swelling of the feet, ankles, legs, abdomen, or neck veins.

There's a lot you can do to prevent heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. You and your friends, family, neighbors, or colleagues can begin by working together to meet your heart health goals. Move more, work on your weight and salt intake, quit smoking—it's all easier when you have social support.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls		January	
Phone calls Received/Returned		129	
Parties Registered for Notifications		141	
Harassment/Threats/No Contact		15	
Referrals		15	
Release/Parole Inquiry		22	
Other		69	

Notifications		January	
Registration		125	
Movement		121	
Advance Release		375	
Final Release *		98	
Death		16	
Other		11	

Announcements




Have you lost someone you love? Would you like to help Tennessee Voices for Victims make this specialty license plate available in Tennessee to remember loved ones who are no longer with us? Whether the loved one is gone from murder, or illness, or accident, or suicide, or addiction, we loved them and want them to be remembered. Or can you stand in solidarity for those who are suffering with senseless grief? Remember the people suffering because of loss. In order to make this a reality, 1,000 Tennesseans must commit to purchasing this plate, and the deadline is few short months away. To obtain this plate, and to help make this license plate available for Tennesseans, learn more at www.tnvoicesforvictims.org. Without your help, this "Remembrance" specialty plate will not be available in Tennessee. There is currently only one other state that has a remembrance specialty license plate. Help us make it two!!

Stay Connected
With #TeamTDOC!

Follow Us:

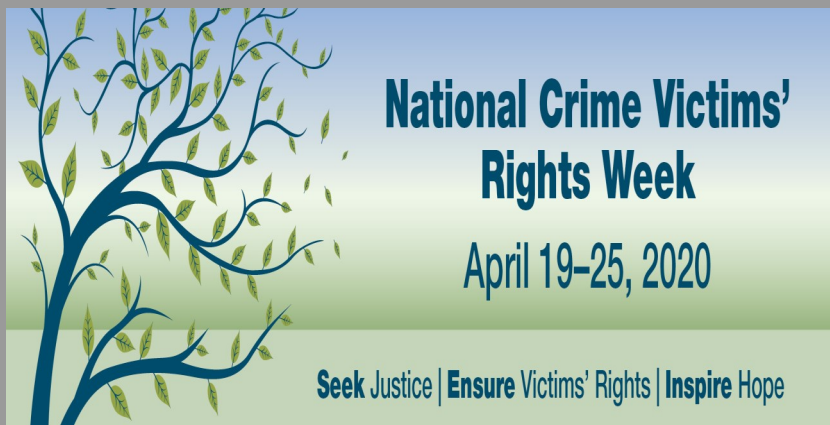
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Tennessee Department of Correction

Victim Services

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Nashville, TN 37243

615-253-8145 ph

Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Announcements



The Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy

Registration Now Open!

May 31-June 5, 2020

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Applications available online at <https://www.tncoalition.org/events-trainings>

Applications are due April 2, 2020

Hurry! Space is limited.

Stay Connected
With #TeamTDOC!

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8TH ANNUAL POWERHOUSE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Doors at 11 a.m. | Program Begins at 11:30 a.m.

City Winery | 609 Lafayette St., Nashville, TN 37203

HONOREE:
VINCE GILL

whose words and honesty provides strength and hope

EVENT CHAIRS:
Beverly Keel and John Michael Seigenthaler



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